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SHULTZ DISCUSSES POLICY ON SOVIET WITH KEY EXPERTS

LONG-TERM PLANS STUDIED

Secretary Said to Stress Need
to Review Political, Arms
and Economic Issues

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 — Secretary of State George P. Shultz held an all-day meeting today with experts on Soviet affairs and senior Reagan Administration officials to discuss United States policy toward the Soviet Union.

With the crisis in west Beirut apparently ending, Mr. Shultz has decided it is time to pay more attention to international issues other than the Middle East, his aides said, and has given priority to a review of long-term political, economic and military policy toward the Russians.

Mr. Shultz, who has no particular expertise in Soviet affairs, patterned today's session after an all-day meeting he had with former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and others on Middle East policy on July 17, the day after he was sworn in as Secretary.

Brezhnev's Ill Health Cited

According to State Department officials there is a need for a fresh look at policy toward the Soviet Union, given major developments already apparent. They said that in view of the precarious state of Leonid I. Brezhnev's health there is always a chance of a shift in the Soviet leadership, which would necessitate a careful handling of relations during the initial post-Brezhnev period.

In the economic field, the Administration has become involved in a serious dispute with its Western European allies over sanctions against the Soviet Union as a result of the imposition of

martial law in Poland. The Europeans have refused to go along with President Reagan's efforts to prevent organizations with licenses from American companies from producing components for a natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. The Administration is considering what steps to take against companies that defy the American sanction.

Moreover, the Administration, in deference to pressure from the farm belt, has allowed sales of grain to the Soviet Union to continue, at the same time that it is trying to curb the transfer of technology. This has prompted additional criticism from Europeans who have charged Washington with trying to limit their trade with Moscow while continuing its own agricultural trade.

Relations between the Reagan Administration and the Soviet Union have been strained, but the two Governments have begun separate negotiations on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and on seeking reductions in each side's strategic nuclear weapons. No progress has been reported from either set of negotiations.

Haig Stressed Contacts

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. had stressed the importance of maintaining contact with the Russians, and at one point even seemed to advocate an early meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Brezhnev, an idea that seems to have been put aside by the White House.

Mr. Haig held three rounds of meetings with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union, the last on June 18 and 19, in New York, just a week before Mr. Haig resigned. Mr. Shultz is planning to attend the regular United Nations General Assembly session in New York next month and would normally meet with Mr. Gromyko there, but no firm plans have been set.

Several of the outside experts who took part in today's session with Mr. Shultz served as senior officials in previous administrations and Mr. Shultz knows some of them from his days as Treasury Secretary for President Nixon from 1972 to 1974.

Former Kissinger Aides Present

They included William G. Hyland and Helmut Sonnenfeldt, who were Mr. Kissinger's chief Soviet affairs advisers, and Brent Scowcroft, who served as Mr. Kissinger's deputy on the National Security Council and later became national security adviser to President Ford.

Also participating were Donald Rumsfeld, who was Mr. Ford's Defense Secretary, and Harold Brown, who was President Carter's Defense Secretary, as well as the present Defense Secretary, Caspar W. Weinberger.

Mr. Shultz's willingness to consult with Mr. Kissinger has aroused considerable attention, since many of Mr. Reagan's supporters have been critical of Mr. Kissinger's policies. At his news conference on Friday Mr. Shultz was asked about the increased attention being given to Mr. Kissinger and his former aides, and whether it was true that Mr. Kissinger was now becoming "the primary foreign policy adviser of this Administration."

Praise for Ex-Secretary

In response Mr. Shultz said that he himself was the principal foreign policy adviser. But he then went out of his way to praise Mr. Kissinger.

"Dr. Kissinger is a wonderful person and a great friend, a person who has tremendous knowledge and comprehension of what is going on," he said. "I have enjoyed the benefit of his friendship and his ideas over many years, and I expect to continue to have that."

"I'll continue to benefit from his advice," he said. "But it's my job to be the principal foreign policy adviser to the President."

Peter G. Peterson, who as Mr. Nixon's Commerce Secretary, negotiated the trade package with the Soviet Union that was signed in 1972, also attended the meeting. That trade package marked the high point of what became known as détente but was renounced by the Russians in 1974 when Congress linked credits and tariff reductions to the rate of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

W. Allen Wallis, who has been designated as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, was another who took part in today's session, along with Walter J. Stoessel Jr., the outgoing Deputy Secretary.

Norman Podhoretz, the editor of Commentary magazine, and a leading neo-conservative critic of the Reagan Administration's foreign policy for not being consistently firm enough against the Russians, was another participant.

Others from the Administration who took part included: Henry S. Rowen, head of the National Intelligence Council of the Central Intelligence Agency, which deals with producing estimates on other countries; Robert C. McFarlane, deputy director of the National Security Council staff; James Buckley, counselor-designate of the State Department; Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary of State-designate for European affairs; Jonathan Howe, director of political-military affairs at the department, and Paul D. Wolfowitz, director of the department's Policy Planning staff.